

War is a Racket by General Smedley Butler. Note: General Smedley Butler made a speech, wrote a booklet, and spilled the beans about the whole war racket almost a century ago. Then, as now, nothing much has changed except the names and faces of the crippled, dead, dying, victims and aggrieved who ‘served’ the ‘gods and goddesses’ of War. VA is a large part of that racket. Below is an essay encapsulating the general’s message. I do not know the author of it. <https://ratical.org/ratville/CAH/warisaracket.pdf>

General Smedley Butler was right. War is a racket – based on Big Lies, waged for wealth, power, and dominance. Wars have nothing to do with upholding democratic values, humanitarian intervention, or fighting for peace, stability, and security. They have everything to do with conquest, colonization, and control – forcing one nation’s will on others, stealing resources, and exploiting populations [rape, rob, murder, cripple, plunder, pillage and subjugate]. America dishonors its war dead – sacrificed on alters of greed and lust for power. Privileged elites let others do their suffering and dying for them – making the world safe for bankers, war profiteers and other corporate predators. **Innocent youths are sent to die based on the noble, Big Lie. Sick and/or wounded returning home are often abandoned. Epidemic levels of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) affect hundreds of thousands of combat forces and Vets. Many go untreated.** Independent reports reveal nearly half of Afghan and Iraq Vets have emotional and/or physical combat injuries. Many are maimed for life. Combat stress is more than many can bear. The disturbing toll war takes is one of the most under-reported stories. **A generation of combat Vets will not ever be the same again. Many needing help do not get it. Too few get enough. An epidemic of Vet and active duty suicides symbolizes war’s hellishness. Many deaths are not called suicides – at home or abroad in war theaters. Misreporting is commonplace. Many suicide victims are age 50 or older.** Combat-related trauma is long-lasting, lifetime. According to a [Center for a New American Security](#) (CNAS) suicide report, Veterans commit suicide every 80 minutes. Study authors Margaret Harrell and Nancy Berglass said: “America is losing its battle against suicide by Veterans and service members. In addition, as more troops return from deployment, the risk will only grow. ”Many Vets return home feeling helpless. Marine Corps Vet Jason Christiansen watched his life unravel. “At one point, I was sitting there with a gun in my mouth,” he said. A friend urged him to seek help. The Veterans Crisis Line gets hundreds of thousands of calls. CNAS said from 2005 – 2010, “approximately one service member committed suicide every 36 hours.” Too little too late reflects DOD/VA policy. For what? America has not had an enemy since Japan formally surrendered in early September 1945 aboard the battleship Missouri. In the decade post-9/11, the VA paid \$200 million to nearly 1,000 families in wrongful death cases. **They are the tip of the iceberg.** Malpractice takes countless others. Included are Veteran and active duty suicides for denial of vitally needed physical and/or emotional care. Wrongful diagnoses and botched surgeries are commonplace by uncaring medical professionals in a system encouraging malpractice by devoting resources to war-making, not caring of its sick, wounded or dying. Malignant tumors are allowed to grow. Over-dosing on dangerous drugs compensates for denial of proper treatment. Elderly Vets promised healthcare for life die from fatal neglect. How many others suffer out of sight and mind? It bears repeating. **America dishonors its war dead, sick, wounded, and dying.** Paul Craig Roberts is right. Memorial Day [and Veterans Day are] is a cruel hoax – a national disgrace. It has been this way from inception since 1866 – more than ever today by far. Catastrophe occurs when too many people refuse to accept, that around us always are two universes at work. There is the cold, hard reality that underlies everything. And on the surface is a veil of deceit and compromise [bread, wine and circus fantasy]. The more humanity compromises vital truths in order to enjoy the comfort of illusions, the more mind-shattering it will be when those illusions fall away. These two worlds can coexist only for short periods, and they will *always* and eventually collide. There is no other possible outcome.